

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, March 29, 1896, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL The Park Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin. Sunday, March 29, 1896. My darling Mabel:

I am tired out and long to be with you once more. Your letters have been a great comfort to me and have kept me in touch with home. Only — letters without my name upon them somewhere — might prove awkward things sometimes.

I have been dreaming a dream. One of your nicest letters came yesterday. It commences “My darling” (no name) “You don't really suppose that all the parties in the world could take your place in my mind and heart?” (you darling) Then you say, have written every day and sometimes twice a day — and go on “I would dearly like to go and meet you some where but do not see how I can just now.” And wind up with “You see I have nothing to say except that I love you. Yours ever.” (no signature). I thought at the time of receipt — what an awkward thing it would have been for you — if this note — by inadvertence should have been placed in the wrong envelope — and have been received by Tom, Dick or Harry!

Nothing in it to show that you were writing to your husband! I suppose this originated my dream last night. I don't remember all the details excepting that there was an attempt at blackmail — by the production of letters like the above — written in my absence — received by some stranger. Hush money asked from you — or your husband would be shown the letters and etc., etc.

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Then how my poor little wifie in her trouble, confided in me — how I believed in her and went for the villain. Some dramatic scenes — details gone now — excepting that publication was threatened — and then I awoke to find it all a dream!

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I telegraphed to the Johns Hopkins Hospital the moment I received your letter. Poor Carrie. Did she stay with you in Washington after all? So sorry to hear of her condition. I entered at the University here — upon the Education of the Deaf — before Prof. Ely's class on charities. (?) Last night attended meeting of "Town and Gown Club" — University Professors — very pleasant evening.

(Last part of letter missing)